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HAP ANNOUNCES YEAR-ROUND SHELTER PLAN TO INCREASE CAPACITY NEARLY 30 PERCENT

\$7 million in contracts aim to reduce impacts of homelessness for individuals, community

The Homeless Action Partnership is pleased to announce the finalization of year-round shelter contracts resulting in a nearly 30 percent increase in overall shelter capacity serving a variety of homeless populations.

The \$7 million in spending includes emergency shelter at three sites operated by Salvation Army Santa Cruz Corps, a new Safe Spaces parking program, increased funding for Monarch Services' domestic violence shelter, funding for Housing Matters' Paul Lee Loft and increased capacity for the Association of Faith Communities' rotating shelter program, funding to divert hundreds of residents from becoming homeless and incentives for landlords to offer permanent housing to homeless individuals.

"This represents an important step forward, from a triage system that offered temporary solutions and toward a system of shelter and services capable of addressing our homelessness crisis by offering meaningful solutions for homeless individuals and our community," said Rayne Perez, Santa Cruz County's Homeless Services Coordinator.

Announced on the traditional start of winter shelter, the contracts formalize an expansion in shelter capacity to 549 spaces while building out programming needed to prevent homelessness and assist in the transition from shelter to permanent housing. In partnership with the County and partner cities, the Homeless Action Partnership is studying ways to further address the crisis of homelessness.

The contracts being announced today include:

Salvation Army Santa Cruz Corps	\$1.96 million	Laurel, River St. sites/S. Cruz
Salvation Army Santa Cruz Corps	\$1.43 million	South County Navigation Center
Community Action Board	\$1.33 million	Homelessness prevention
Housing Matters	\$813,000	Paul Lee Loft
Association of Faith Communities	\$632,443	Comm. shelter and Safe Spaces
Monarch Services	\$350,000	Domestic violence shelter
Housing Authority of Santa Cruz Co.	\$320,015	Landlord incentive program

Snapshot of Homelessness in Santa Cruz County

According to the 2019 Point-in-Time Count report, there are 2,167 homeless persons living in Santa Cruz County. Nearly one-third are currently employed, and three-quarters were previously housed in Santa Cruz County before becoming homeless. Thirty-nine percent reported a disabling condition impacting their ability to live independently; approximately 30 percent reported suffering post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use disorder, and/or other psychiatric or emotional conditions; and loss of employment was the leading cause of homelessness.

About the Homeless Action Partnership

The Homeless Action Partnership is a collaboration of the County and each city within Santa Cruz County, along with local homelessness service providers. It acts as the federally-designated continuum of care for Santa Cruz County and helps allocate State and federal funding to address homelessness. The County of Santa Cruz serves as lead agency for the HAP.

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